



Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology Toxic Site Assessment - Fact Sheet

The Toxic Site Assessment activity is 100% federally funded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). (No State match is required). The result of reducing staff or funding of this activity would be reducing the number of hazardous waste sites and/or hazardous substance exposure assessments. This could result in increased exposure to hazardous substances at various sites throughout the state of Louisiana which could therefore lead to illness and disease in humans. If funding was increased, it could enable us to perform more health education outreach.

Objective

Reduce exposures to hazardous substances and mitigate potential adverse health effects from such exposures by evaluating contamination in soil, outdoor/indoor air, water, sediment, and food around hazardous waste sites (National Priority List (NPL and non-NPL sites) is the goal of these site-specific activities. Coordinating with federal and state counterparts to estimate risk of exposure to chemicals (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and non-CERCLA substances) with health-based national standards and those without established national standards.

Performance Indicators

1. Number of health consultations, public health assessments, and technical assist documents submitted to ATSDR per year.
2. Number of Health professional education projects focusing on the prevention to toxic chemicals and the prevention of health effects from such exposures
3. Number of fact sheet and publications disseminated
4. Number of community health outreach events (meetings, health fairs, etc.)
5. ATSDR deadlines met for continuation grant application (100%).

Narrative

The Toxic Site Assessment program reports its site assessment results in the form of a health consultation, letter health consultation, or technical assist document. Each of these

documents addresses the following Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) goals: to prevent ongoing and future exposures and resultant health effects from hazardous waste sites and release, to determine human health effects associated with exposure to Superfund-related priority hazardous substances, to mitigate community concerns about the risks of human health effects at toxic waste sites with documented exposures, and to enhance effective partnerships. The Toxic Site Assessment program has performed these types of activities since 1988, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/ATSDR, and supplemented with expertise from state-funded public health professionals.

Activities:

1. Applying for the CDC/ATSDR grant
2. Evaluating data from National Priority List (NPL)/Superfund sites and other hazardous waste sites
3. Developing health consultations, public health assessments, and technical assist documents
4. Conducting exposure investigations, health studies, and surveys to help determine risk and potential threats of exposure to hazardous waste site contaminants in nearby populations
5. Collaborating with other governmental agencies (local, state, federal)
6. Attending monthly meetings with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to discuss public health activities at sites that may involve regulators
7. Responding to request for public health information from ATSDR, EPA and state regulatory agencies in a timely manner
8. Performing community and health professional education focusing on the prevention of exposure to toxic chemicals
9. Developing fact sheets and other written publications to distribute to the community to make them aware of various environmental exposures
10. Enhancing community involvement and interaction between residents and state and federal agencies
11. Conducting evaluations to submit to ATSDR to strengthen Toxic Site Assessment projects, as well as, provide indices of achieved success and recognized need for future activities.
12. Conduct site visits for hazardous waste sites of concern
13. Develops annual workplan for future sites to evaluate and submits to ATSDR in a timely manner

Better Health

The Toxic Site Assessment advances the outcome goal of better health by protecting children, families, communities and others from heavily contaminated toxic waste sites.

Since receiving its first Public Health Assessment Cooperative Agreement from ATSDR in 1988, the Toxic Site Assessment program has assessed various National Priorities List (NPL) and non-NPL hazardous waste sites in the form of a health consultation, letter health consultation, or technical assist document.

The Toxic Site Assessment Program primarily investigates group rather than individual health effects for exposures. The concentrations of the chemicals of concern at the various sites are compared to ATSDR's or EPA's health based risk standard values.

The high profile nature of many sites in Louisiana requires an intensive effort to coordinate and address community. The Toxic Site Assessment Program coordinates activities with federal agencies, such as the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies, such as the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and regularly attends community, EPA and LDEQ public meetings, forums, and open houses to stay abreast of issues surrounding sites and to answer any public health related questions posed by local residents. In addition, the Toxic Site Assessment program works with community groups and other non-governmental organizations, including the Louisiana Environmental Justice Community Organizations Coalition (LEJCOC) to address their environmental and health concerns. Fact sheets and other written publications are developed and distributed to the community to make them aware of various environmental exposures.

1. Economic Development:

- The Toxic Site Assessment program promotes healthier sites which encourages community development and attracts new businesses.
- The cost of illness related to the airborne pollutants such as ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead is estimated to be about \$250 billion annually (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 2007).

2. Hurricane Protection and Emergency Preparedness:

- The Toxic Site Assessment program assessed 16 Superfund sites post hurricane Katrina and developed health consults at the following sites

Bayou Sorrel	Health Consult
Agiculture Street	Health Consult
Devils Swamp	Health Consult
DL Mud	Health Consult
Combustion	Health Consult
Southern Shipbuilding	Health Consult
Gulf CoastVS	Health Consult
PAB Oil	Health Consult

Delatte	Health Consult
Dutchtown	Health Consult
Petro Processors	Health Consult
Old Inger	Health Consult
Madisonville	Health Consult
Cleve Reber	Health Consult
Mallard Bay	Health Consult
Bayou Bonfouca	Health Consult

Mandates:

1. LA Revised Statutes (RS) 36:258
2. RS 40:5

No State Match Required

CFDA Number 93.240

Program to Conduct and Coordinate Site-Specific Activities

- In the 2004 Toxics Release Inventory, the EPA ranked Louisiana 11th among states for all reporting industries, compared to 10th in 2000. The data was collected from 375 facilities.
- According to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's list of inactive and abandoned sites, there are currently 9 hazardous waste sites listed on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) and three proposed sites.
- At the state level, there are 164 confirmed inactive and abandoned sites and 446 potential sites.
- The Toxic Site Assessment Program authors approximately 6 letter health consults or health consults per year and 16 technical assist documents per year.
- To date, the Toxic Site Assessment Program have published in excess of 205 reports and continue to write documents informing Louisiana residents of the status of their health as it relates to environmental contamination.
- The Toxic Site Assessment Program performs approximately 15 community outreach events.

